

# Risky Driving

## and your teens...



**David Huff**  
**Fran Penner-Ray**  
OPI Traffic Education

November 3, 2009  
12 – 1 pm

**Where:**  
DPHHS Auditorium



Montana  
**Office of Public Instruction**  
Denise Juneau, State Superintendent

[opi.mt.gov](http://opi.mt.gov)

You've invested time and caring to  
grow them well  
and keep them healthy and safe



Your skills are needed now more  
than ever

# What are the Risks?

- Inexperience
- Speed
- Distractions
- Fatigue
- **Alcohol** is involved in about 16% of fatal crashes involving 16 and 17 year-old-drivers



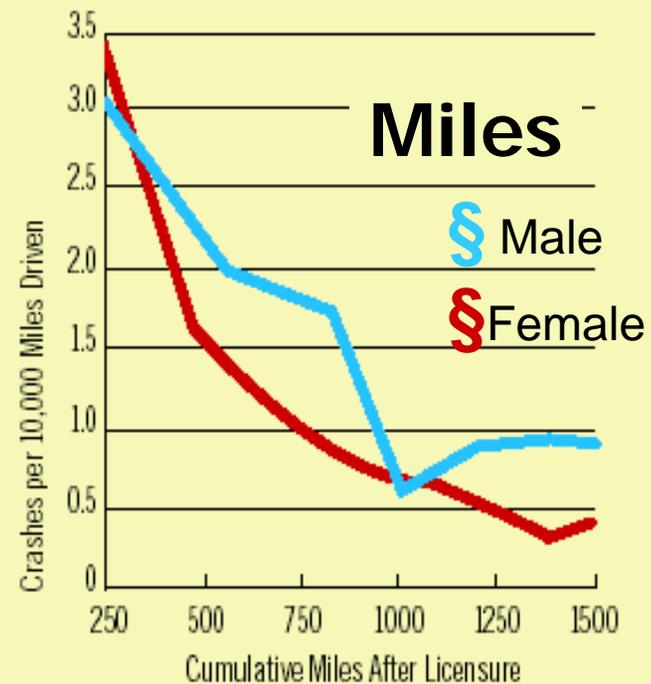
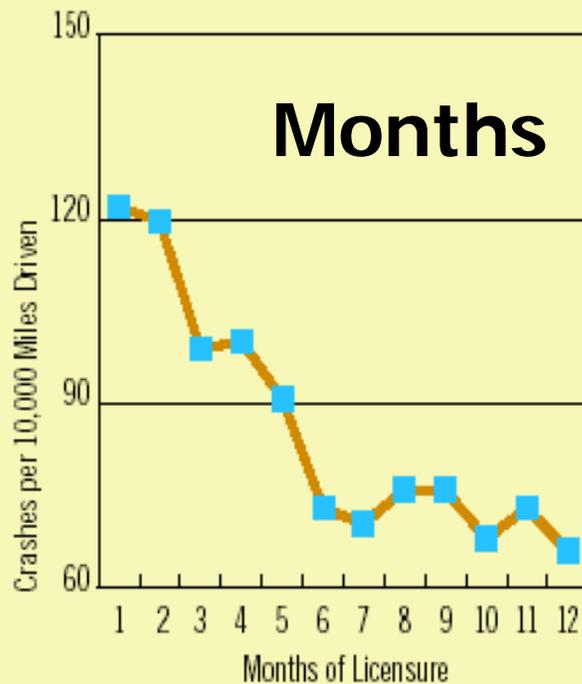
These factors cause crashes – But what Kills?

## Lack of Seat Belt Use

# Inexperience - Risk to Teen Drivers

1<sup>st</sup> 6 months or 1000 miles of driving

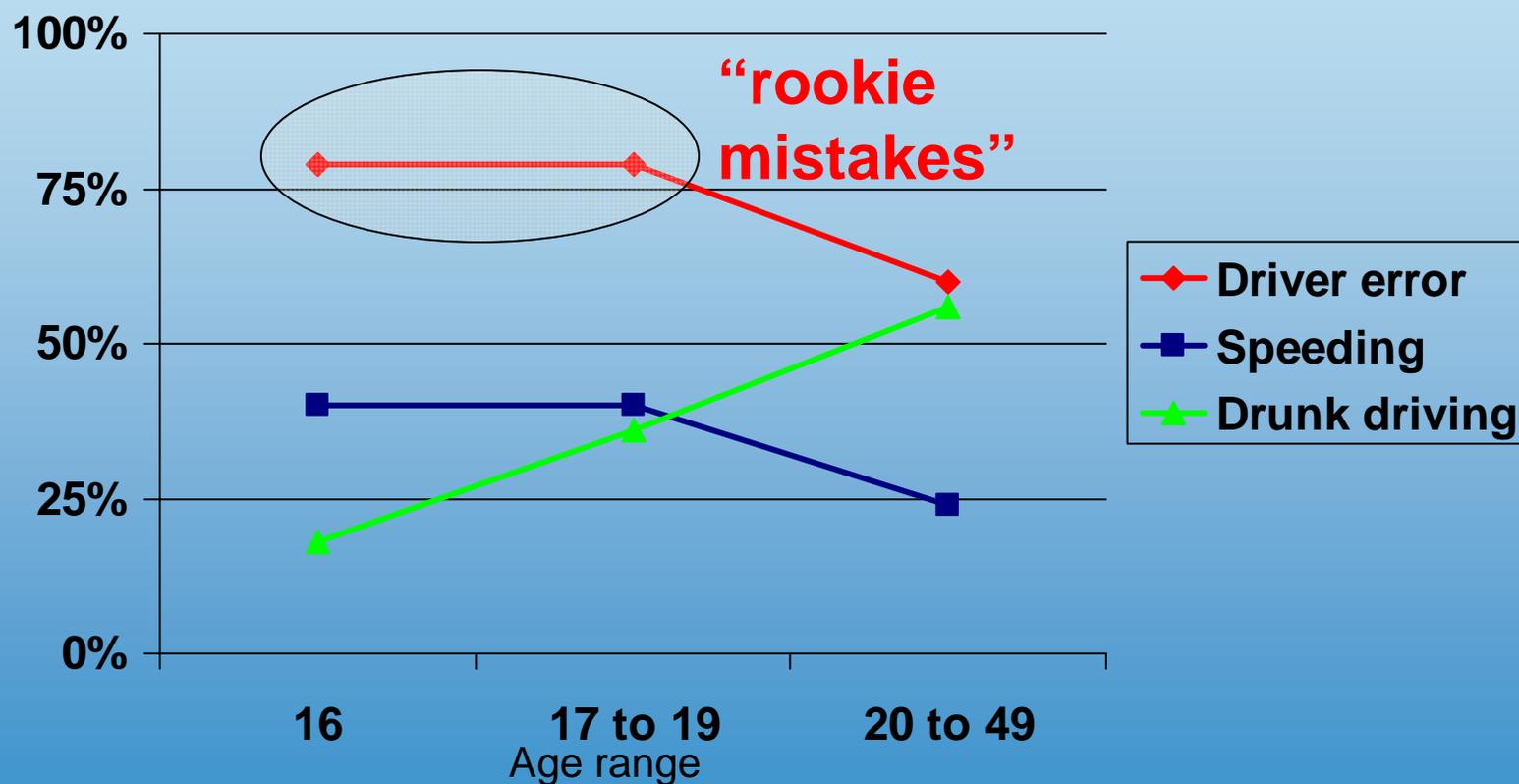
## Novice driver crash risk



Source: Mayhew, 2002; McCartt et al, 2001

# Driver Error and Speed

## What causes crashes?



Units: % of fatal cases with factor present.

Source: Williams, et. al. *Journal of Public Health Policy*, 16: 3 (1995)

# Distractions



1. Eyes off the Road – Visual
2. Mind off the Road – Cognitive
3. Hands off the Steering Wheel – Manual

**Nearly 8 out of 10 crashes happen within 3 seconds of a driver becoming distracted.**

# Distractions

## Cell Phones and Driving

400%



Crash Risk

# Distractions

## Passenger Research on Teen Driving



Your teen  
one passenger

**doubles**

the fatal crash risk  
for drivers 16-19 years of age.



3+ passengers  
**quadruples**  
(4x) the crash  
risk for  
16-19 year olds.

# Fatigue and Drowsy Driving



**Drowsy Driving is as risky as drunk driving.**

**Being awake for 17 hours = the same impairment as a BAC of 0.08%**

**Young people especially males are at highest risk**

**Most drowsy driving crashes occur during late night/ early morning or midafternoon.**

# Alcohol and Impaired Driving

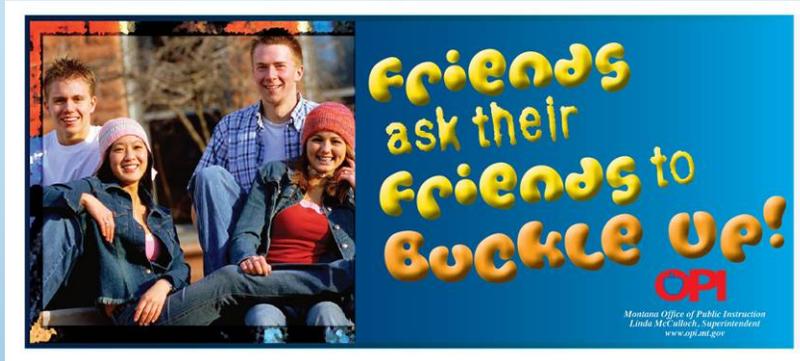
Alcohol is involved in about 16 percent of fatal crashes involving 16 and 17 year old drivers.



**The 2009 Youth Risk Behavior Survey found in Montana High Schools teens reported:**

- 28.8% Rode in a car driven by someone who had been drinking alcohol during the past 30 days
- 13.5% Drove a car when they had been drinking alcohol during the past 30 days.

# Seat Belts



## Most of Us Wear Seat Belts

In 2008, 79.3% of vehicle occupants used seatbelts on all roads in Montana.

81% of those killed in a crash while riding in a pickup were not wearing seatbelts in Montana from 2006 – 2008,

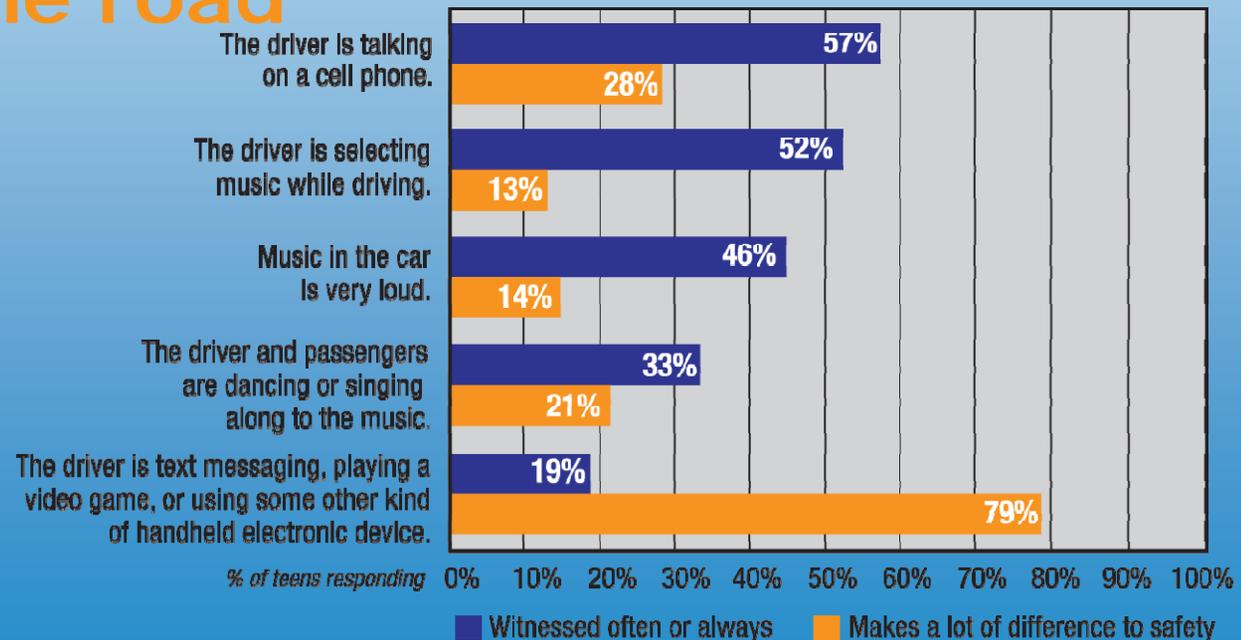
# Teens view safety and risk differently and need adult guidance!

- Teens who have never driven
  - Don't let your teen ride with inexperienced teen drivers
- Teens who are learning to drive
  - Don't let just anyone supervise teen's driving
- Teens who drive independently
  - Teens think license = experienced
  - Parents need to monitor & set limits
  - Parents have authority to have state pull teen's license



# TEEN PERSPECTIVE: *Cell Phones*

Things drivers do  
that take  
their eyes and  
focus off the road



The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia®  
RESEARCH INSTITUTE

For Teen Drivers  
**Parents**  
are the best safety feature

# Driver Education

**Professional instruction makes a difference**



Enroll your teens in a  
state approved  
Driver Education  
class

Teens whose parents chose to enroll them in a state approved driver education class have fewer citations and serious crashes. (Texas and Oregon research results)



Teens with parents who set limits on driving are **less likely**

- to:
- Have crashes
  - Engage in risky driving
  - Get tickets



# Montana's Graduated Driver License Law 2006

## **Step 1 – Instruction Permit/Learner License**

**Requires 6 months and 50 hours of supervised driving practice with parent/guardian.  
Seatbelts required**

## **Step 2 – GDL Restricted License**

**Limits teen passengers and night time driving  
Requires seat belts for everyone – all the time**

## **Step 3 – Full Privilege Driver License**

**After one year of GDL restrictions or age 18**

# GDL Step One - 1000 Miles



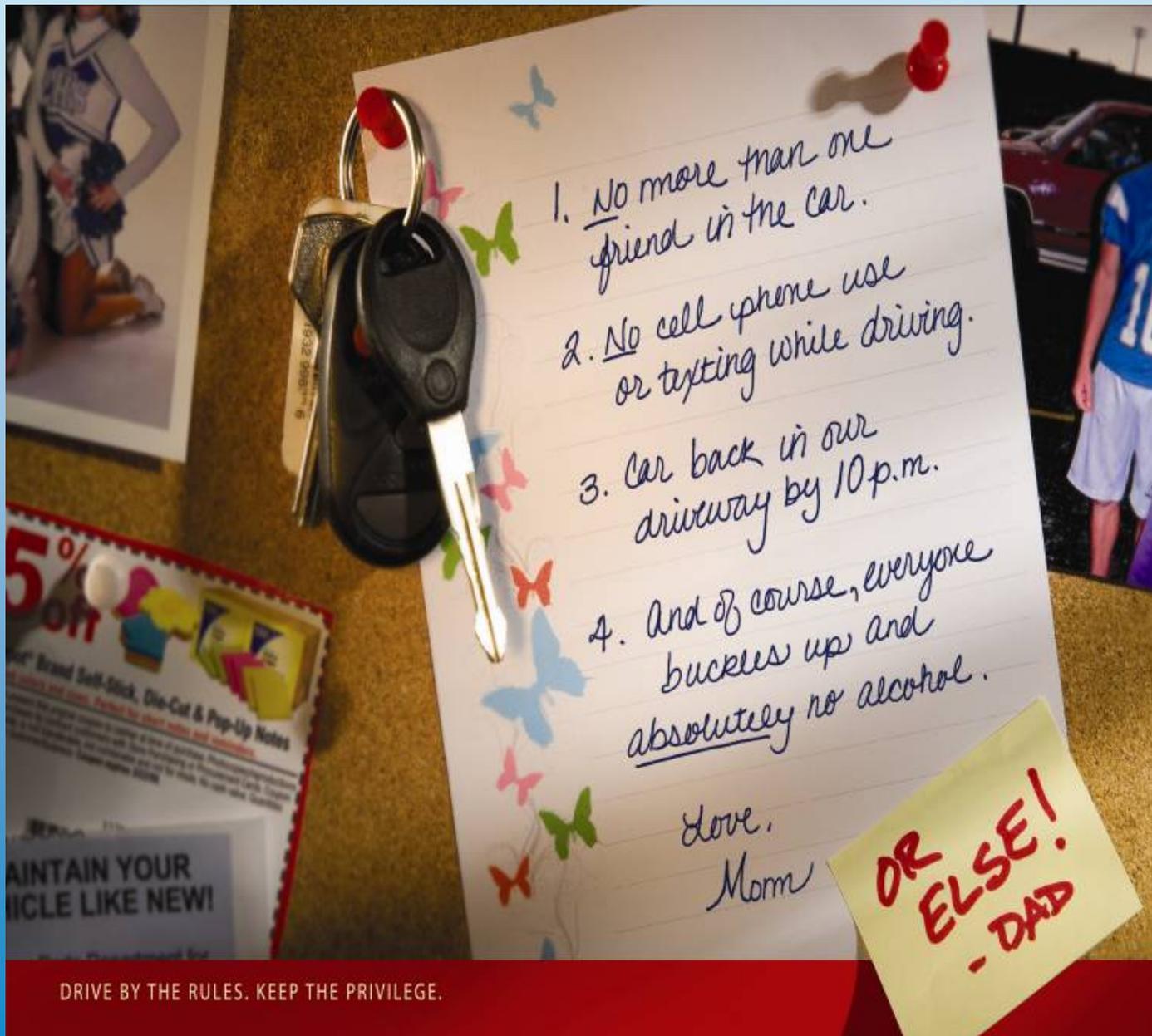
The Starting Line is knowing the Rules of the Road – then it's time to practice



Driving experience develops competence

After 6 months of practice consider additional education: enroll in MHP's Alive at 25

# GDL Step Two – Restricted License



DRIVE BY THE RULES. KEEP THE PRIVILEGE.

# GDL Step Three – After One Year Full Privilege Driver License



## Help Set Family Rules

- Always wear seatbelts
- Passenger Restrictions
- Limit driving at night and in bad weather
- Safe driving behaviors:  
No alcohol, cell phone, or speeding

Lifetime Crash Risk is lowest during supervised practice and highest in the first year of driving

# CAN I BORROW THE CAR?

*The conversation starter that might keep  
a teen from crashing*

**Recommend that teens  
ask for the keys at least  
for the first 6-12 months**

**Parent's opportunity to:**

- review house rules
- help with trip decisions
- provide support on peer pressure





## TEST COMPARES CRASHWORTHINESS THEN AND NOW

In the 50 years since US insurers organized the Institute, car crashworthiness has improved. Demonstrating this was a crash test conducted on Sept. 9 between a 1959 Chevrolet Bel Air and a 2009 Chevrolet Malibu. In a real-world collision similar to this test, occupants of the new model would fare much better than in the vintage Chevy. The Malibu's structure held up well while the Bel Air's collapsed around the driver dummy (see photos, p.6). Injury measures recorded on the dummy in the Malibu were good except for a possible left foot injury, while a driver in a real-world crash of the Bel Air would suffer serious, if not fatal, injuries.

"It was right and day, the difference in these cars," says Institute president Adrian Lund. "The test shows that auto makers don't build cars like they used to. They build them better."

The 40 mph frontal offset crash test was conducted at an event to celebrate the contributions of auto insurers to highway safety over 50 years. Beginning with the Institute's 1959 founding, insurers have maintained their resolve, articulated in the 1950s, to "conduct, sponsor, and encourage programs designed to aid in the conservation and preservation of life and property from the hazards of highway accidents."

Every aspect of the Institute's work over 50 years has reflected this founding princi-

ple. The public health goal today, as it was in 1950, is to prevent the harm associated with motor vehicle crashes.

A decade after the Institute was founded, insurers directed this organization to begin collecting data on crashes and the cost of repairing vehicles damaged in crashes. To lead this work and the Institute's expanded research program, insurers named a new president, William Haddon Jr., who already was a pioneer in the field of highway safety. In welcoming Dr. (continues on p.7)

2009 MALIBU	1959 BEL AIR	OVERALL
GOOD	POOR	structure/safety cage
GOOD	POOR	head/neck
GOOD	POOR	chest
MARGINAL	POOR	leg/foot, left
GOOD	POOR	leg/foot, right
GOOD	POOR	restraints/dummy kinematics

2009 Chevy 1959  
Insurance Institute for Highway Safety



**In the crash test involving the two Chevrolets, the 2009 Malibu's occupant compartment remained intact (above left) while the one in the 1959 Bel Air (right) collapsed.**

Insurance Institute for Highway Safety



**Teens driving with two or more passengers increase the chance of a fatal crash by five times**

So how many will you allow?

Teen drivers need extra rules to keep them safe. To learn more about the rules, and ways to discuss them with your kids, visit [nhtsa.gov](http://nhtsa.gov)





## What Can Parents Do?

- Be a role model for safe and smart driving
- Enroll your teen in Driver Education
- Supervise teen driving
- Set family driving rules, limits and consequences
- Know Montana's Graduated Driver License Law [www.opi.mt.gov/gdl](http://www.opi.mt.gov/gdl)



[www.opi.mt.gov/gdl](http://www.opi.mt.gov/gdl)

## Resources:

[www.chop.edu/youngdrivers](http://www.chop.edu/youngdrivers)

- Parent-Teen Driving Agreements
- Driving Lesson Plans
- Fact Sheets
- And more... from 



The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia®  
RESEARCH INSTITUTE

